

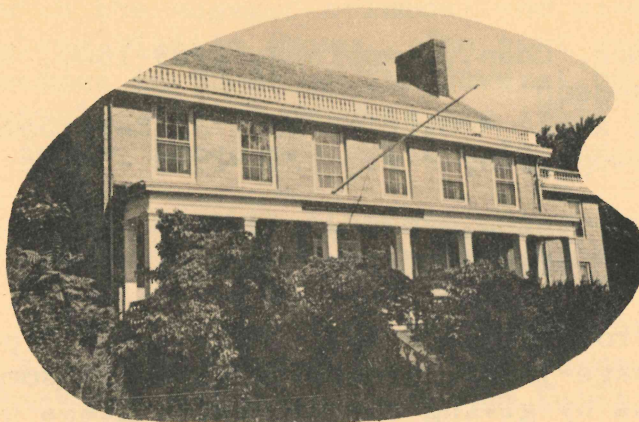
New London County Historical Society

11
11 Blinman Street

SHAW MANSION

New London, Conn.

Quarterly



Bulletin

Vol. 24

Merry Christmas to All

No. 2

AN INVITATION

This year our New Year's party will fall on little Christmas, Twelfth Night, or 6 January 1979. So do come at four o'clock to six-thirty, bring any of your friends and family you would like to, and have a drink with us. We will start the New Year with good cheer and our favorite people, and hope the next 359 days will be as pleasant. Don't forget the date, 6 January 1979, 4:00 to 6:30 P.M.

BLACK HISTORY

If things go as planned, and as everyone knows, more often they don't, we are shortly going to publish a history of the Blacks in Southeastern Connecticut. James M. Rose, a native of New London, spent several years doing research for the book, and the manuscript was submitted to us this fall. A committee was appointed to read it, and they brought glowing reports to the Board of Directors, and it was decided to go ahead with publishing it. It should be at the printer's before Christmas, and hopefully, available by early February. It is certain that there has long been a need for a history of the black citizens of this area, and we hope this will fulfill that need.

MORE RESTORATION? Possibly

The Society has requested a grant from the Palmer Fund to cover the cost of removing the marble fireplace in the little parlor and restore the panelled cement wall and original fireplace. We are in hopes, but of course have no idea if our request will meet with the approval of the HNB Trust Department. Costs have escalated since our last restoration, and we have no idea in what condition we might find the cement wall, so bids were figured on the worst possible damage. Some of the cement walls have been relatively untouched, while others have been found in a very damaged state. Meanwhile, sections

of the marble mantel are getting looser and looser, as more and more of the mortar sifts out. The curator no longer dares put one foot on the mantel while hanging Christmas decorations at the top corners of the mirror near the ceiling. It would be nice to have that room match the drawingroom again.

ACCESSIONS

Checklist of New London, Conn., imprints, 1709-1800, Hazel A. Johnson, comp.-

Gift of Hazel A. Johnson

Painted floorcloth, 9 x 12' - Gift of Mrs. J. Reid Johnson

Checklist of Conn. newspapers, 2 v., 1755-1975 - Gift of State Library

IDEAS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

To recover a person from intoxication: Make such a person drink a glass of vinegar, or some cabbage-juice, otherwise give him some honey. You may likewise meet with success by giving the patient a glass of wine quite warm to drink, or a dish of strong coffee, without milk or sugar, adding to it a large teaspoon of salt.

To make VIN-DES-DIEUX: Peel two large lemons, and cut them in slices; do the same with two large golden pippins. Put all asoaking in a pan with a pint of good Burgundy, three quarters of a pound of lump sugar in powder, six cloves, and half a gill of orange-flower water. Cover the pan, and keep it thus for two or three hours, then strain the liquor through the flannel bag. You may musk and amber it, if you will.

from Valuable Secrets, 1795

A CREAM ALMOND PUDDING: Boil gently a little mace and half a nutmeg(grated) in a quart cream; when cool, beat 8 yolks and 3 whites, strain and mix with one spoon flour and quarter of a pound almonds; settled, add one spoon rose-water, and by degrees the cold cream and beat well together; wet a thick cloth and flour it, and pour in the pudding, boil hard half an hour, take out and pour over it melted butter and sugar.

COOKIES: One pound sugar boiled slowly in half pint water, scum well and cool, add two tea spoons pearl ash dissolved in milk, then two and half pounds flour, rub in 4 ounces butter, and two large spoons of finely powdered coriander seed, wet with above; make roles half an inch thick and cut to the shape you please; bake fifteen or twenty minutes in a slack oven - good three weeks.

from American Cookery, 1796

JOHN BISHOP

Considering the present interest in Starr St., and its restoration, and the fact that John Bishop built some of the houses there, it seemed timely to give you an idea of what John Bishop did during his very busy life. The following has been gleaned from his obituary in the MORNING TELEGRAPH, May 23, 1892.

No resident of New London was more widely known than John Bishop for his career was full of business and continually in touch with the public.....

He had a wonderful memory from which to draw a store of knowledge. He was a lifelong Democrat and had voted for every president from Andrew Jackson to Grover Cleveland.

Mr. Bishop built his first house in 1832 on the corner of Washington and Tilley streets (the one with the engaged columns) and also built the one adjoining, occupied by the late William Crump. The next year (actually in 1835) he built the twelve columns in front of the several houses on Huntington st., then owned by Ezra Chappell. These columns are still a noticeable feature of that street. (The fourth house was built a few years later).

In 1834 he erected a country seat at Flanders, now occupied by C.P. Sturtevant, and another for James Strickland. In 1835 he built a large store for Adam and Andrew Frink and Mr. Chew on Bank street. In 1836 he built a house for Joseph Skinner on Prospect street and the houses on Starr street now owned by David Wright and James Greenfield. This same year he placed an iron spindle on Race Rock for the government and built a church at Upper Mystic for John Hyde and Elias Brown.

In 1837 he built his own house wherein he died at No. 21 Tilley street. In 1838 he erected three houses on Tilley street for Dr. Isaac Thompson, now owned by Mrs. Robert Tate, B.L. Lynch and Charles C. Hewitt. The next year he built five dwelling houses on Starr street, four for himself and one for Edward Pratt. In 1840 he built the Stonington lighthouse for the government. In 1842 he erected the house on Tilley street now owned by W.H.H. Comstock, two cottages on Canal street now owned by Orlo Atwood, and the cottage house at the corner of Prospect street and Bulkeley square for N.D. Smith.

The following year he erected the brick block, corner Bank and Golden streets, for Perry Douglass and the Exchange Building on Bank street for Joseph Lawrence, now occupied by S.N. Ellis and other firms. The original building had been destroyed by fire and the new one was erected on the old foundations. This year he also opened the Stoll quarry in Groton and furnished all the granite for the parade wall at Fort Trumbull. He also designed and superintended the erection of the Huntington street Baptist Church for the Universalist Society. In 1844 he built the granite church in Norwich called the Dr. Bond church, and also a cottage residence for George S. Perkins... In 1847 he secured another government contract, this time to rebuild the long bridge across the Potomac at Washington. In this year also he built the house on the corner of Church and Meridian streets for William J. Gray.

In 1848 he superintended the erection of the lighthouse upon the North Hummock in Fishers Island Sound for the government. In 1849 he built a store for Frink and Chew on Bank street and supervised the erection of the stone building now occupied by Darrow and Comstock. This same year he accomplished what was then a novelty in house building. He built a dwelling house for Captain Long in sections, which were transported to California and there erected.

The next decade was a busy one for him. In 1850 he built the bridge between New London and Willimantic (sic) (! ?) for the New London Northern railroad and the depot at Willimantic for the Hartford and Providence road. In 1851 he built the cottage adjoining the Coit street school for Wm. P. Colfax and also the Sisson cottage. In 1851 he also built the Sky Grove cottage in East

New London for William H. Starr, now occupied by P.Hall Shurts.

In 1851 and 1852 he built the Pequot House, a fact which the younger generation are ignorant of. It was opened July 4th, 1852, with a grand dinner, where New Londoners participated as invited guests. Mr. Bishop was connected with the Pequot House for ten years and managed it until 1862 when he sold it. He built a house for Capt. Middleton on the Pequot grounds in 1852; a house for David Bishop and another for Capt. Vail. (Bishop house was on Mountain Ave.) In 1854 he erected a cottage for William H. Starr on Winthrop street, East New London, and in 1856 he built the Niagara Engine house for the city of New London. In 1863 he built a house for himself on Smith street, remodelled the house of J.D.McCurdy, Lyme, in 1866, and built a cottage for the same person in 1868.

In 1871 he built the lighthouse in Providence river, upon Pumham Rock, for the government and in 1873 erected another on Penfield Reef off Black Rock. In 1873 he built a house on Thames street for Joseph Tinker. In 1879-80 he erected the granite church at the corner of Starr and Green streets for the Universalist Society and in 1884 he completed a block of houses upon Smith street for Bishop and Wheeler.

About this time, after a continuous career of over half a century, Mr. Bishop retired from active business and the work he may have since accomplished is too recent to need recalling. The last contract he entered upon was the erection of three lighthouses on the coast of Massachusetts, the work upon which was begun in 1889 and completed a year or so later.

Resident curator - Mrs. Adam L. Knox

Telephone - 443-1209

FROM:

The New London County Historical
Society - Shaw Mansion
11 Blinman Street
New London, CT. 06320
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